

June 27, 2018

AMEND BOARD REPORT 08-0723-PO2
POLICY ON THE REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE, AND CHILD NEGLECT AND
INAPPROPRIATE RELATIONS BETWEEN ADULTS AND STUDENTS

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Chicago Board of Education (the Board) amend Board Report 08-0723-PO2, the Policy on the Reporting of Child Abuse and Child Neglect.

HISTORY OF BOARD ACTION: PURPOSE: ~~To~~ This policy was originally enacted by the Board to provide a comprehensive framework for policy on the reporting of suspected cases of child abuse and child neglect by school personnel and others responsible for the child's welfare of children (Board Report 08-0723-PO2). The current amendments are recommended to (a) reflect changes in Illinois law and in the Board's electronic incident reporting system (b) communicate clear expectations that all employees must protect students by reporting any interactions or behaviors which suggest that an adult has or had an inappropriately intimate relationship with a child or may be grooming a child, even if the employee does not have reasonable suspicion that sex abuse is occurring or has occurred; and (c) require mandated reporters to immediately call the DCEG helpline and then notify the reporter's principal/supervisor or Network Chief/Chief

Officer when they have a reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect.

POLICY TEXT:

I. DEFINITIONS

certificated and non-certificated school employees), educational advocates assigned to a child
~~present to the School Code, social workers, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses~~

required to immediately call the DCFS Hotline at 1-800-252-2873 (1-800-25-ABUSE). NOTE: A

mandated reporter's discipline is not satisfied by notifying his/her the reporter's supervisor.

2. After notifying the Hotline, a mandated reporter may then choose, but is not obligated, to must inform his/her the reporter's principal/direct supervisor (whether the principal, Management Support Director (MSD), department head, or other individual acting in a supervisory capacity) of the report. If the alleged abuser is the mandated reporter's principal/supervisor, or the mandated reporter fears retaliation from their principal/supervisor after calling the Hotline, the mandated

E. Reporting and Documenting Grooming and Inappropriately Intimate Behaviors

1. An employee who witnesses any interaction or receives credible information suggesting that an adult may be grooming a child is required to follow the steps in paragraph C on mandated

2. If the employee does not have reasonable suspicion that grooming, sex abuse or sexual exploitation has occurred or is occurring, or is not sure if their observations and/or information constitute reasonable suspicion of abuse, the employee must report information indicating inappropriately intimate interaction or behaviors to the principal/supervisor or the Network

2. If the principal/supervisor reports the principal/supervisor or Network Chief/Chief Officer must

b. a. Call the Chicago Police Department at 9-1-1, if he/she believes that the child needs medical assistance or that it may be dangerous for the child to return home, call the Chicago Police Department at 9-1-1 and do not allow the child to go home until DCFS has interviewed the child.

b. b. Notify each of the child's teachers of the Hotline call and assist in the school

record a copy of the written confirmation and the any police report (if available).

3. The principal **may**:

a. Notify the Area Office or other designated oversight office of the Hotline call, in his/her discretion

b. Call the Office of Specialized Services (773-553-1800), if he/she believes that any child needs crisis intervention or other supportive service.

B. For Suspected Child Abuse or / Neglect by CPS Employees, / Volunteers, or / Contractors

1. A principal shall assist any mandated reporter who suspects child abuse or / neglect in calling the DCFS Hotline. Under no circumstances shall any principal or other supervisor discourage any mandated reporter from calling the DCFS Hotline, or ask any mandated reporter to change the reporter's his/her report of suspected child abuse or / neglect to DCFS.

2. Notification. A principal who is notified by a mandated reporter or by DCFS that a report

d. *Student/Witness.* Upon receipt of the completed Student Interview Request Form for a student/witness who is not the subject of the Hotline report, contact the parent to request consent

for the interview. A student/witness shall be made available for a DCP interview at school **only if** parental consent is granted.

e. *Staff Presence.* CPS employees may request to be present for DCP interviews with students, but the DCP investigator has sole discretion to grant or deny that request.

2. CPS Employee Interviews. When a DCP investigator comes to a school to speak with an accused teacher, ask the investigator to question the teacher, to the extent possible, when the teacher is not conducting a class. If the investigator asks to interview another school employee, ask that questioning occur so as to minimize disruption of the school day.

3. Protective Custody. If a DCP investigator or police officer takes protective custody of a student at school, the principal or designee shall:

d. If the school receives written notice that a listing is not about a student specified in § 87(2)(b),

whether to remove the accused employee or / volunteer from contact with students pending the investigation. When an allegation is made of an adult sexually abusing a student, the adult will be removed from contact with students pending the results of an investigation. After a removal decision

decision to remove is made, appropriate notice shall be sent to the employee or / volunteer.

2. Vendor's or Contractor's Employees. Department Heads, OEAS or OHSP, as applicable, Principals, department heads or other Board administrative staff who oversee a the vendor's or

Legal References: ~~325 ILCS 5/3, 5/4.02, 5/7.4~~; 105 ILCS 5/21B-75-23, 105 ILCS 10/6, 325 ILCS 5/3, 5/4.02, 5/7.4; 705 ILCS 405/2-3; 23 Ill. Adm. Code 375.60.

Approved for Consideration:


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